

Message Text

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TO USMISSION USNATO PRIORITY

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 140964

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: NATO, ETEL, MARR

SUBJECT: NATO SATCOM

REF: USNATO 5400

1. AFTER FURTHER REVIEW AND ANALYSIS, WE REMAIN CONVINCED THAT BEST AND LEAST COSTLY OPTION FOR NATO IV SATCOM SPACE SEGMENT IS DSCS III. MOREOVER, NATO CHOICE OF DSCS III WOULD FACILITATE COMPLETE INTEROPERABILITY AND FLEXIBILITY OF US AND NATO SATCOM SYSTEMS. ACCORDINGLY, OUR OBJECTIVE IS TO CONVINCE OUR ALLIES THAT DSCS III SHOULD BE THE CHOICE FOR THE NATO SATCOM IV SPACE SEGMENT.

2. WE ARE WILLING, HOWEVER, TO GO ALONG WITH NATO PURCHASE OF DSCS III AS A GAP FILLER WHILE A NATO TAILORED SPACE SEGMENT IS STUDIED FURTHER. THIS DOES NOT MEAN
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THAT WE ARE PREPARED TO AGREE AT THIS TIME TO A NATO TAILORED SATELLITE SYSTEM. PROVIDED CONSIDERATION OF THIS OPTION GAINS ACCEPTANCE, TWO SEPARATE DECISIONS SHOULD BE MADE. FIRST, A DECISION TO USE DSCS III AS A NATO SATCOM IV SPACE SEGMENT GAP FILLER. YOU CAN SUPPORT THIS DECISION. SECOND, A DECISION TO CONSIDER A NATO TAILORED SATCOM IV SPACE SEGMENT. BEFORE AGREEMENT,

WE WILL WANT TO REVIEW OPERATIONAL CAPABILITIES, EXTENT
OF INTEROPERABILITY WITH THE US SYSTEM, RDTE RISKS,
AND DETAILED COST ESTIMATES.

CHRISTOPHER

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